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March 10, 2010

WOODS CHARITABLE FUND AWARDS GRANTS

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., a private grant-making foundation, today announced the approval of new and renewal grants and a program related investment (PRI) in Lincoln, Nebraska, totaling **\$492,000**, as the first of three grant cycles in 2010. **Sixteen tax-exempt organizations will benefit from these awards (BELOW)**. It was also announced that the Fund has approved the targeted grant and PRI payout of \$1.44M for the year.

“Woods Charitable Fund’s Board of Directors unanimously voted to exceed the Internal Revenue Service’s mandated 5% payout by a considerable margin in order to sustain the foundation’s 2010 grant-making at its 2009 and 2008 levels,” said Donna Woods, President of the Board. “The Fund believes that it is important to support the community at a higher level during challenging economic times. Although our decision will take Woods’ total percentage of giving above 7% this year, we are committed to doing so.”

Of the \$492,000 in awards approved at the March meeting, 10% of the funding went toward Arts and Culture, 65% toward Civic and Community, 4% toward Education, and 21% toward Human Services.

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. makes grants three times a year to tax-exempt organizations seeking funding for programs in the areas of Human Services, Civic & Community, Education, and Arts & Culture, as well as programs and initiatives designed to assist new Americans in Lincoln. For more information on funding guidelines, call 436.5971, visit the Fund’s website at www.woodscharitable.org, or write to either Pam Baker, Tom Woods or Angie Zmarzly at P.O. Box 81309, Lincoln, NE 68501.

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Approved for Funding by Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., March 2010

Community Development Resources (\$5,000 grant + \$100,000 loan) – For the creation of a *Community Nonprofit Loan Fund* pilot project administered by Community Development Resources, a non-profit Community Development Financial Institution dedicated to providing financial products and services to people and communities underserved by traditional financial markets

Community Justice Center (\$75,000) – Three-year general operating support of this organization that provides information, education and community resources for victims, offenders and communities to heal the harm caused by crime

Cultural Centers Coalition (\$25,000) – Second-year support of a shared Development Coordinator position for this collaboration, comprised of Asian Community & Cultural Center, Malone Community Center, Indian Center and El Centro de las Americas, that is dedicated to improving its client services through working collaboratively to strengthen each other and overcome the challenges shared by Lincoln’s cultural centers

Fresh Start, Inc. (\$10,000) – Toward general operating support of this organization that provides resources and support to women who are homeless to increase their self-sufficiency

Illusion Theater and School, Inc. (\$10,000) – For public readings of its new adaptation of Willa Cather's *My Antonia* and for related community and youth workshops in Lincoln, in partnership with Haymarket Theatre

Indian Center, Inc. (\$10,000) – Toward the operation of its *Commodity Supplemental Food Program* which provides monthly food packages to people of low income in Lancaster County

Lighthouse (\$20,000) – Second-year support for its *Truancy Intervention and Prevention* program focusing on youth in grades 5 through 12 who have problems with school attendance

Lincoln and Lancaster County Child Guidance Center (\$50,000) – For a 4,000 square foot renovation of its facility to allow expanded therapy services for children and families experiencing trauma and mental illness

Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra (\$10,000) – General operating support to help stabilize this organization that exists to broaden appreciation of and support for orchestral music of artistic excellence

Meadowlark Music Festival (\$25,000) – Three-year general operating support for this annual summer chamber music festival

Nebraska Advocacy Services, Inc. (\$10,000) – Support of its two-day *Summer Institute on Authentic, Inclusive Lifestyles* focusing on assuring that people with disabilities are fully included in the community, at work and at home

NeighborWorks Lincoln (\$30,000) – For outreach efforts in Lincoln's core neighborhoods through community organizing, financial fitness instruction, and homebuyer education

Public Interest Projects, Inc. (\$60,000) – Two-year support of the *Nebraska Equal Opportunity Infrastructure Project*, a collaborative project with Nebraska Appleseed, the NAACP and the Progressive Student Coalition, to defend and expand affirmative action and other efforts to promote full inclusion of people of color and women

Saint David's Welsh Society of Nebraska (\$2,000) – Support of community-based workshop and performance events in June 2010 to promote its centennial celebration

United Methodist Ministries (\$25,000) – Toward a new bookkeeper position and transition expenses of the Center for Legal Immigration Assistance as it forms an independent nonprofit

UNL-Department of Community and Regional Planning (\$25,000) – For the *Enhancing Citizen Engagement in Community Assessment with Innovative GIS Technology* project, in collaboration with NeighborWorks Lincoln and the City of Lincoln Urban Development Department, to involve residents of two of the city's vulnerable neighborhoods in a neighborhood-wide property assessment to help set goals for improvement